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Fifty-first session
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Agenda item 96 (f)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994 and 50/107 of 20 December 1995 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and all other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community, at the highest political level, has already reached a consensus on and committed itself to the eradication of poverty through declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly the World Summit for Social Development,

Expressing serious concern that more than 1.3 billion people in the world live in absolute poverty, especially in developing countries, and that the number of such people continues to increase every year,

Welcoming the formulation of direct programmes of poverty eradication by some developing countries at the national level,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Noting the activities carried out by countries and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as by organizations, associations, institutions and entities of civil society, within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Noting also the action to be taken within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recognizing that the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 1/ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 2/ to be conducted in the year 2000, will contribute to enhancing, at the international and national levels, action for the eradication of poverty in the world,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 3/ and on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, 4/

Taking note of the agreed conclusions on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996, 5/ as well as of the outcome of the sessions of relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1996,

1. Expresses its solidarity with people living in poverty in all countries and regions that are suffering severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, employment, credit, income and information;

2. Decides that the theme for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty shall be "Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind", and decides to adopt the logo for the Decade as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General; 6/

3. Decides also that within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special focus should be given to issues that reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty, such as environment, food security,

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1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ A/51/443.

4/ A/51/348.

5/ A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, para. 2.

6/ A/51/443, para. 53 (a) and (b).

population and migration, health, shelter, human resources development, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development, productive employment, the situation of vulnerable groups and social integration and therefore decides that the themes for 1997 and 1998 shall be "Poverty and environment" and "Poverty and food security", respectively; the themes for the remaining years of the Decade will be decided every two years commencing, in 1998, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

4. Decides further that the objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively all agreements, commitments and recommendations of United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly those related to poverty eradication;

5. Stresses that international cooperation and assistance are essential to supporting the efforts of developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to meet the goal of eradicating poverty and stresses at the same time, that, at the request of Governments, the United Nations system should provide technical assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacity to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis;

6. Stresses also that the United Nations system should promote gender analysis in the integration of gender concerns into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies, and programmes on poverty eradication;

7. Stresses further that during the Decade and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by being fully involved in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies, activities and programmes for poverty eradication and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

8. Invites donor countries and multilateral financial institutions to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and also invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, through, inter alia, the elaboration and implementation of anti-poverty programmes;

9. Encourages developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication activities and programmes and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

10. Recognizes the need to increase the share of funding for social development programmes commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals set out in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and chapter 2 of the Programme of

Action of the World Summit for Social Development, relating to the eradication of poverty;

11. Reaffirms, in this context, that developed countries should attain, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and ensure that, within that target, 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product is earmarked for the least developed countries;

12. Reaffirms also that the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, should take further measures and initiatives to cancel and/or reduce external debt, as well as to facilitate the access of developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to international markets, in order to enable them to implement fully and effectively their national anti-poverty activities and programmes;

13. Urges the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to poverty eradication programmes in developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

14. Calls upon all States, particularly donor countries, to contribute substantially to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, which includes in its activities support for activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

15. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to extend, as part of the contribution of the Programme to the Decade, the effort launched in 1996 with the Poverty Strategies Initiative, in order to strengthen technical and financial assistance in the elaboration or formulation of direct programmes to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries;

16. Welcomes the initiative to convene the non-governmental Micro-Credit Summit in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, and the support given by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme thereto, with a view to ensuring that one hundred million families, especially the women of those families, around the world, particularly in African countries and least developed countries, will receive credit for self-employment and other financial services by the year 2005 and, in this context, calls upon all Governments, the United Nations system and the relevant actors of civil society to participate in the Summit, so as to ensure the successful outcome of the initiative;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Secretariat entity entrusted with the task of the system-wide promotion, implementation and follow-up of activities and programmes of the Decade with adequate human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations to enable it to discharge fully and effectively its functions and responsibilities;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports to be prepared for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 give due attention to the issue of poverty eradication;

19. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the overall assessment of the implementation of the programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, including the amount of resources earmarked by funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and to report on the implementation of the present resolution - that report to include a section on the negative effects of unilateral actions on the situation of people living in poverty and programmes for their well-being, in targeted developing countries;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124, 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ A/51/350.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124;

2. Notes the actions taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 2/ encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard and requests them to fully implement all chapters of the Programme of Action;

3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the relevant goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the full implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference; and in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities in all developing countries and regions, including through the United Nations Population Fund and other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and invites all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations, including specialized agencies, the business community, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, has the primary

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2/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

responsibility for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Decides that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination shall inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination;

10. Requests the Task Force to coordinate the development of appropriate indicators, taking into account relevant research, so that progress in addressing reproductive health needs by individual countries can be assessed on a reliable basis;

11. Decides that its special session, to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, within existing clusters, the item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.3

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University 1/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the University, 2/

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with the United Nations Secretariat in the context of preparing for the third medium-term perspective,

Noting with appreciation also the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in initiating a new series of research programmes,

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1/ A/51/31.

2/ A/51/324.

1. Welcomes the completion of the second medium-term perspective 1990-1995, of the United Nations University and the ongoing work of formulating the third medium-term perspective for the period 1996-2001, being considered by the Council;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. Requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies in the United Nations system, and to continue their efforts to avoid the duplication of work within the system;

4. Also requests the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's programmes and its research and training centres;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies in the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124 of 19 December 1994, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to allow for the greater participation of the United Nations University in the work of the United Nations, and invites him to continue to encourage the participation, as appropriate, of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and integration;

7. Requests the Council and the Rector, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and economy of the activities of the University as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

8. Invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations University.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT: RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 20 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

Noting with interest the role of the Secretary-General in encouraging all countries to engage in a constructive dialogue for advancing development and in facilitating their efforts in that regard,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

96-31285 (E) 111196 121196

Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General, 1/

1. Reaffirms the need to encourage constructive dialogue and partnership based on mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development;

2. Also reaffirms the need to place development at the centre of United Nations activities and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development through increased partnership among and between countries;

3. Agrees to defer the holding of the first high-level dialogue for a period of two days to the early part of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States not later than February 1997 - on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, regional commissions, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

4. Reaffirms the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and developing countries, including the dialogue being conducted between the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of Seven, as well as the consultations that take place with the participation of the developed countries and the Group of 77;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue, taking into consideration the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session for its consideration, recommendations on possible future themes for dialogue, including the issues of globalization, regional integration and new information technology;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in an agenda for development;

1/ A/51/485.

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling also its resolution 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, and expected the World Commission to submit its final report to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations General Assembly no later than three years after it began its work,

Noting that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has sent the report of the Commission 1/ to the member States of that organization for their comments as well as to many non-governmental and academic bodies,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ See A/51/451, annex.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to further stimulate international debate on culture and development;

2. Encourages the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to discuss the report further, taking into account the views, comments and proposals submitted by Member States, and to include those views, comments and proposals in the report to the next General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1997;

3. Also encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account cultural, religious and other areas of diversity;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to compile a report taking into account the views, comments and proposals expressed by States and the relevant intergovernmental organizations;

5. Decides to continue further consideration of the issue of cultural development at its fifty-second session.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Communications for development programmes in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system, 1/ as well as the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held in Harare from 2 to 5 September 1996,

Recalling its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995 on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General; 1/

2. Considers that informal round tables, such as the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development organized in Harare by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, constitute an effective mechanism of inter-agency cooperation and coordination for promoting and advancing communication for development due to, inter alia, their

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ A/51/314.

grass-roots participation, their openness to partners outside the United Nations system and the outreach of their outcomes;

3. Recognizes the importance of strengthening the intergovernmental process within the United Nations system in the field of communication and development;

4. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the sixth Round Table, and invites all actors in development at the country level, including the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to take the observations contained in the report into consideration when planning and implementing projects and programmes, with the cooperation of the resident coordinator;

5. Stresses the need to support participatory communication for development as an important process for increasing people's participation, encouraging dialogue and the ownership of development efforts by their beneficiaries, and contributing to the empowerment of people for development;

6. Recognizes the relevance for policy makers and decision makers at all levels to give increased priority to communication for development, and hence to include it as an integral component in every development project or programme;

7. Recommends that the next informal round table be held in the Latin American and Caribbean region to build upon the meetings held in Asia and Africa so as to be close to the reality and needs of the developing countries, without losing sight of global perspectives, and invites Member States to cooperate with the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the regular convening of informal round tables on communication for development, with the full participation of the international financial institutions at the country level;

8. Reaffirms the paramount importance of financial cooperation and the transfer of technology in the context of communication for development programmes and projects, and calls upon the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system to assist Governments in introducing technologies and innovative methods for enhancing communication for development;

9. Stresses that resources mobilization remains an important objective for capacity-building in the area of communication for development;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the agency with the principal mandate in the field of communication in the United Nations system, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with the periodicity that was agreed upon in Assembly resolution 50/130.